

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 105  
By Miller L

A RESOLUTION To designate April as "Minority Health  
Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, African Americans and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately included within the ranks of Tennessee's most economically-disadvantaged residents; and

WHEREAS, The health status of Tennesseans living in poverty (including economically-disadvantaged African Americans and Hispanic Americans), is significantly and persistently inferior to the health status of all other Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Disturbing disparities persist in the mortality and morbidity experiences of the state's minority population when contrasted to the mortality and morbidity experiences of the state's majority population; and

WHEREAS, Economically-disadvantaged African Americans and Hispanic Americans residing in Tennessee suffer significantly higher rates of cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as well as a wide variety of other serious diseases and disorders; and

WHEREAS, The infant mortality rate within Tennessee's minority population is practically double the infant mortality rate within the state's majority population; and

WHEREAS, State government should take all appropriate and prudent measures to vigorously attack these problems by encouraging preventative health care and healthier lifestyles and by increasing access to relevant health-related information and quality health care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That in the interest of promoting healthier lifestyles and greater access to quality health care for African Americans and Hispanic Americans residing in this state, beginning 2003, the month of April shall be annually designated as "Minority Health Awareness Month in Tennessee."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body urges and encourages all Tennesseans to annually observe "Minority Health Awareness Month" by supporting and participating in programs and activities to attack the many problems giving rise to the health status disparities persistently experienced by African Americans and Hispanic Americans residing in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Black Health Care Commission and the Office of Minority Health within the Tennessee Department of Health shall, during the month of April each year, undertake appropriate activities and programs to jointly promote "Minority Health Awareness Month in Tennessee."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Black Health Care Commission and the Office of Minority Health within the Tennessee Department of Health.